



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **February 22, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher
Legislator Monell
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Weston

Guests:

Sabrina Henriques, Tioga County Chamber of Commerce President (*Departed at 10:12 a.m.*)
Jamie Striley, Tioga County Chamber of Commerce Board Member (*Departed at 10:12 a.m.*)

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney (*Arrived at 10:01 a.m.*)
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk
Elaine Jardine, Planning Director (*Departed at 10:12 a.m.*)
Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist (*Departed at 10:12 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a **Public Hearing on the Annual Agricultural District Inclusion Requests.**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

A second **Public Hearing on NYS CDBG Microenterprise Grant Application** began at 10:05 a.m.

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, the February 8, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items:

ACTION ITEM #2 – 1/4/24 – Solar PILOT Proposal

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported she spoke with ED&P Director Tinney yesterday. Ms. Tinney did not come forward with a resolution this month, as she is still waiting for the Town of Owego to determine how they want to proceed. Ms. Tinney asked if this action item could be carried forward for another month. County Attorney DeWind spoke with the Town of Owego attorney just prior to this meeting and concurred it is still in process. There is some input they are looking for from the State agencies and they are not quite ready to decide how to apportion the actual funds. Mr. DeWind reported this is a matter of whether it is going to go through the traditional formula of a third to each taxing jurisdiction or whether this is going to be just through the County and Town with the school district doing their own. **This action item is completed and will be removed from the Action Item List.**

Other:

- ***Spencer Food Pantry:*** Chair Sauerbrey reported an individual contacted Legislator Weston regarding the Spencer Food Pantry. The pantry is running low on funding and is asking the Legislature to consider giving the organization money to assist with the increased need for food. Chair Sauerbrey reported that in the past, Tioga County has not directly funded food pantries. She explained that assistance is offered through the Department of Social Services and the SNAP program. Unfortunately, with the increased cost of food, many individuals need additional assistance.

Chair Sauerbrey reported that other food pantries within Tioga County are doing well. Legislator Monell cautioned that if the Legislature were to give the Spencer Food Pantry funds, then a precedent would be set, and other pantries would expect funding as well. Legislator Standinger, who is a board member on the Candor Food Pantry, suggested that the Spencer Food Pantry reach out to Candor for assistance. So far, Legislator Standinger doesn't believe that has happened.

Legislator Standinger reported that there are resources and funding available for food pantries. Chair Sauerbrey agreed and said the community is an excellent resource as many individuals would gladly donate. Legislator Monell concurred and stated the Spencer Food Pantry should let the community know that they are struggling. Legislator Fleisher mentioned that the Berkshire Food Pantry reaches out to Broome County organizations for funding. Legislator Brown stated the Lions Club sponsors a mobile food pantry through the Southern Tier Food Bank. The mobile food pantry makes at least one stop in Tioga County on a monthly basis. Legislator Roberts stated if food is left from the mobile food pantry, it is divided and donated to smaller food banks. The Legislators in attendance agreed that the Tioga County Legislature would not provide funding to the Spencer Food Pantry. Chair Sauerbrey will inform representatives from the Spencer Food Pantry of the decision.

- ***Waverly Mental Hygiene Building Update:*** Chair Sauerbrey asked if there is an update on the Waverly Mental Hygiene building project. County Attorney DeWind anticipates

that a resolution for the construction and lease of the building will be brought forth for Legislature consideration at the March 12th meeting.

- **Emergency Services Radio Communications Project:** Chair Sauerbrey reported that she signed the fourth land lease agreement for the radio communication tower project. A meeting between Motorola and Tioga County is scheduled for today to review the details of the project with Tioga County's recently appointed Director of Emergency Services, Corinne Cornelius. In the near future, Chair Sauerbrey expects more details on the financial aspect of the project to be presented to the Legislature.
- **Efficiency of Tioga County Government:** Legislator Brown reported that he attended the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting last night. Numerous other counties throughout New York State also attended. Legislator Brown noticed that other counties are not as efficient as Tioga County when it comes to appointing members. The process in other counties can take much longer to appoint members. In some cases, it takes years to have an individual appointed. Legislator Brown commended Tioga County for the efficiency of the appointment process.

Executive Session: Eight Legislators were in attendance. Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss financial matters at 10:26 a.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Monell to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Brown. Executive Session adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eiklor

Deputy Legislative Clerk